

Message Text

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13

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 AF-06

OIC-02 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /135 W

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R 191726Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

QAMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 152

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT ETRD

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 17

REF: STATE 36606

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT GATT COUNCIL

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FEB 17:

1. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE REPORTS. EC, IN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO LAST YEAR'S BOP COMMITTEE DIATRIBE BY ARGENTINA, SAID ESTABLISHED BOP COMMITTEE PROCEDURES SHOULD BE RETAINED AND NOTED IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING RULES AND PROCEDURES OF GATT. US SUPPORTED REPORTS ADOPTED WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION.

2. SCHEDULE OF BOP CONSULTATIONS FOR 1976.
ADOPTED. (SEPTTEL ON BARZIL DISCUSSION.)

3. BIENNIAL REPORTS ON EC/EFTA AGREEMENTS. US MADE STATEMENT ON SLOW PROGRESS ON RULES OR ORIGIN CHANGES, ALONG LINES OF REFTEL. CANADA SUPPORTED AND SAID SOME RECENT CHANGES IN RULES OF ORIGIN WERE A STEP BACKWARD. (NOTE: AFTERWARDS CANADA (STONE) TOLD US HE REFERRED TO TREATMENT WOOD PULP IN AUSTRIA WHEREBY R/O CHANGE EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 1976 MEANT AUSTRIAN IMPORTERS HAD TO SWITCH IMPORT SOURCES IN ORDER CONTINUE QUALIFY FOR 4 PERCENT DUTY DRAWBACK. THIS NEW EFFECT RESULTS FROM PROTOCOL 3, ART XXIII, WHICH FOUND IN ALL EC/EFTA AGREEMENTS.) EC (LUYTEN) GAVE TESTY REPLY THAT R/O DESIGNED TO KEEP OUTSIDERS FROM UNDULY PROFITING FROM FTAS. EFTA (AMB HAMBRO, NORWAY) STATED AGREEMENT WITH EC VIEWS AND SAID COUNCIL WAS NOT THE PLACE FOR DISCUSSION WHILE ART XXII CONSULTATIONS IN PROGRESS. COUNCIL NOTED STATEMENTS.

4. INDIA WAIVER. APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION.
US VOTED FOR.

5. AUSTRALIAN TEXTILE RESTRICTIONS. (SEPTTEL.)

6. WP REPORT ON CANADIAN EGG RESTRICTIONS.
US THANKED WP, PER REFTEL, AND CANADA JOINED US.

7. UK IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. EC, IN EXPECTED VERBAL DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES, SAID TV TUBE AND SET SURVEILLANCE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY; COTTON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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YARN MEASURES AFFECTING SPAIN AND PORTUGAL VALID UNDER MFA; LIMITS ON MEN'S SUITS INVOLVE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, ALL MEASURES TEMPORARY. US MADE STATEMENT ALONG LINES STATE 23234 INDICATING THAT IF SYSTEM ON TV TUBES AND SETS IS TRULY FOR STATISTICAL SURVEILLANCE ALONE, THAT IT SHOULD NOT LOGICALLY EXCLUDE IMPORTS FROM OTHER EC COUNTRIES. SPAIN SAID THEY HAD HEARD OF UK RESTRICTIONS VIA TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY AND BILATERALLY FROM UK PORTUGAL REGRETTED RESTRICTIONS, COMPLAINED OF NO

PRIOR NOTICE, NOTED THEY NOT IN TEXTILE AGREEMENT (MFA), SAID MEASURES ARE DISCRIMINATORY AND PLACE ADDED STRAIN ON ALREADY BURDENED POLITICO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, AND RESERVED GATT RIGHTS. JAPAN REGRETTED UK MEASURES, WARNED OF DANGERS OF PROLIFERATION, AND WITH SINGAPORE JOINED US IN CONCERN OVER DISCRIMINATORY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM ON TVS. ROMANIA SAID THEY WOULD WATCH AFTER THEIR MFA RIGHTS. EC PROMISED CIRCULATE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES, SAID THEY DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM SINCE THEY ARE A CUSTOMS UNION MOVING TOWARD UNIFORM SYSTEM ON ALL ADMINISTRATIVE AND CUSTOMS MATTERS.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MEASURES.
ADJUSTMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPROVED.

9. BRAZILAIN BOP MEASURES. GENEVA 1122.

10. CHAIRMAN OF BOP COMMITTEE. JAGMETTI APPROVED.
COMMENT: WE RECOGNIZE HIM NOW AND BELIEVE CHOICE WAS A GOOD ONE.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

(A) NEW ZEALAND PRIOR IMPORT DESPOSITS. NEW ZEALAND SAID MEASURES WERE TEMPORARY AND ASKED FOR A WP "AS IN PAST FOR SIMILAR SCHEMES". CANADA SAID THEY NOT CLEAR WHICH GATT ARTICLE JUSTIFIES MEASURES AND PREFERRED BOP COMMITTEE EXAMINATION. US NOTED N.Z.
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ASSURANCE MEASURES WERE TEMPORARY, RECOGNIZED SERIOUSNESS OF N.Z. BOP SITUATION, AND RECOMMENDED THAT BOP COMMITTEE EXAMINE MEASURES, PER REFTEL. EC, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE REGRETTED NEED FOR MEASURES, UNDERSTOOD N.Z. BOP PREDICAMENT, AND ALL SUPPORTED IDEA OF WORKING PARTY. NZ SAID DEPOSIT IS FOR ONE YEAR ONLY, NON-DISCRIMINATORY; FISCAL AND MONETARY MEASURES ALREADY BEING APPLIED; NOTED ICELAND, ITALY, UK SCHEMES WENT TO WPS WHILE OTHER IMPORT DEPOSIT SCHEMES EXAMINED BY BOP COMMITTEE INVOLVED COUNTRIES WHICH WERE ALREADY PREVIOUSLY CONSULTING UNDER BOP PROVISIONS OF GATT. CHAIR (MACIEL) SAID COUNCIL APPEARED INCLINED TO WP; PROPOSED SANDILYA OF INDIA AS CHAIRMAN, STANDARD TERMS OF REFERENCE (TO EXAMINE PRIOR DEPOSITS IN LIGHT RELEVANT GATT PROVISIONS AND REPORT TO COUNCIL). COUNCIL SO DECIDED. US IS MEMBER OF WP.

(B) EXPORT INFLATION INSURANCE SCHEMES. US REPEATED

APPEAL FOR ALL COUNTRIES HAVING SCHEMES TO NOTIFY THEM UNDER ART XVI:1. IN ORDER COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTTEL TO MENTION UK AND PORTUGAL WITHOUT SINGLING THEM OUT, WE REFERRED TO BOTH PLUS FRANCE, FINLAND, "AND ALL OTHERS HAVING SUCH SCHEMES". JAPAN SUPPORTED AND REMINDED COUNCIL OF THIER PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED CONCERN.

(C) ITC ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTION. JAPAN EC, EC, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA SAID THEY CONCERNED ABOUT RECOMMENDATION ON STEEL, WARNED OF SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ON WORLD TRADE IF US WERE TO TAKE ACTION, URGED US NOT TO DO IT. US RESPONDED PER REFTTEL, NOTED WE FOLLOW OPEN PROCEDURES, AND PROMISED REPORT OTHER'S CONCERN. NO MENTION OF FOOTWEAR.

(D) GATT COMMERCIAL POLICY COURSE. MANY LDCE AND US SUPPORTED INCREASE. MATTER GOES TO BUDGET COMMITTEE.

(E) EC BEEF RESTRICTIONS. AUSTRALIA SAID NEW CHANGES IN SYSTEM SEEM MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN BEFORE. EC SAID NO; THE TWO AGREED TO DISCUSS BILATERALLY.

(F) AUSTRALIA ADOPTS BRUSSELS DEFINITION OF VALUE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CUSTOMS PURPOSES. SEPTTEL

(G) GREEK IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. AUSTRALIA SAID GREECE SUSPENDED IMPORTS OF LAMB, ASKED DETAILS. GREECE SAID SUSPENSION WAS TEMPORARY, PROMISED DETAILS TO AUSTRALIA.

(H) POLISH CUSTOMS TARIFF. POLAND SAID TARIFF INTRODUCED JAN 1 BASED ON BTN WITH TWO COLUMNS: BTN AND "AUTONOMOUS". APPLICATION IS NON-DISCRIMINATORY. SAID SINCE THIS IS "FIRST TARIFF IN 36 YEARS", THEY COULD NOT TELL CPS MORE ABOUT IT UNTIL THEY LEARNED MORE. EC, US ASKED THAT POSSIBILITY OF REVERTING TO SUBJECT AT SOME FUTURE COUNCIL BE LEFT OPEN; CHAIR AGREED.

(I) EC-MALTA AGREEMENT. EC SAID OLD EC OF 6 AGREEMENT REPLACED BY EC OF 9 AGREEMENT; TEXT TO BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY, EC PREPARED SUBMIT TO NATURAL GATT EXAMINATION. COUNCIL TO REVERT TO MATTER WHEN DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE.

(J) PANELS ON DISC AND RELATED MATTERS. CHAIRMAN MACIEL INFORMED COUNCIL THAT THE FOUR PANESL WITH IDENTICAL MEMBERSHIP NOW AGREED, CITED MEMBERSHIP. COUNCIL TOOK NOTE.

(K) TOO MUCH OTHER BUSINESS. ARGENTINA, JAMAICA SAID

TOO MANY ITEMS BEING INSCRIBED UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS"
WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE FOR REGULAR
AGENDA. CHAIRMAN ASKED ALL CPS HEED THIS APPEAL. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA00102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-0007
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760236/aaaabexf.tel
Line Count: 226
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 36606
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <30 MAR 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATT COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 17
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006